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May 10, 2004

Admiral James D. Watkins, Chairman
U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Admiral Watkins:

The nation's Governors commend the hard work of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the resulting preliminary report on a national ocean policy that was issued on April 20, 2004. Given the substantial nature of the report and importance of the recommendations to the nation's ocean and coastal resources, we respectfully request that the 30-day comment period be extended for an additional 60 days to allow adequate time for Governors to review and comment on the report.

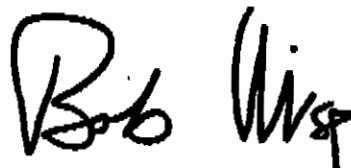
While we understand the Commission's desire to revise and forward its final recommendations to the President and Congress in a timely fashion, the Preliminary Report is an important milestone in the development of ocean policy that calls for due attention and deliberation by the Governors. Several coastal states are going through extensive review processes, and non-coastal states need adequate time to determine how some of the policy recommendations will affect them. Therefore, we request that the Commission provide a minimum of 90 days for review by the Governors.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Governor Bill Owens, Chair
Natural Resources Committee



Governor Bob Wise, Vice-Chair
Natural Resources Committee